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United States Patent [19]**Imanaka**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,790,172**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 4, 1998**

[54] **SERVER APPARATUS, SUBSCRIBER APPARATUS AND INFORMATION ON DEMAND SYSTEM**

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[58] **Field of Search** 348/7, 12, 13, 348/10, 11, 1, 2, 3, 5; 455/2, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3; 386/83, 94; 380/3, 4, 5; 360/15; H04N 7/16, 6/173

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An information on demand system provides a user of a terminal (subscriber) information through a network such as CATV such that the user pays an adequate charge to a server (information provider). According to the information on demand system, the received information can be recorded in a recording medium under control of the terminal equipment. Cases in which 1) the subscriber merely watches a program on a television receiver and; 2) the subscriber records the program and watches it by reproducing the recorded information at another time are distinguished and the subscriber is charged a different amount by the server accordingly.

13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

